

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for the propagation of and aeroponic growing of  
2 plants comprising  
3 transplanting a living plant into a vessel of polymer foam having at least one  
4 cavity distal to said plant;  
5 applying water to said foam sufficient to saturate said foam and concurrently  
6 providing water and moist air in said first cavity, whereby roots of said plant  
7 extend into and grow within said cavity to a greater extend than their growth into  
8 said foam.
- 1 2. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said vessel comprises  
2 a foam core, defining an upper surface, a base and a sidewall, said at least  
3 one first cavity provided in said foam core, proximal to said base;  
4 a first passageway extending through said foam core and into said first  
5 cavity.
- 1 3. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said step of applying water  
2 includes the step of  
3 directing water into said first passageway.
- 1 4. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1, the including the step of adding water  
2 to said foam core.
- 1 5. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said vessel further comprises  
2 at least one second cavity in said upper surface, said first passageway  
3 extending through said foam core communicating between said first and second  
4 cavities;  
5 an external flange proximal to said upper surface;

6 a peripheral trough between said upper surface and said external flange;  
7 at least one bore passing through said foam core, providing a communication  
8 between said trough and said first cavity whereby the addition of water to said  
9 trough will fill said first cavity at least partially and wet said foam core.

1 6. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 5, wherein said step of applying water  
2 includes the step of  
3 directing water into said second cavity.

1 7. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 5, including the step of adding water  
2 into said trough.

1 8. (Currently Amended) A vessel for the propagation of and aeroponic growing of  
2 plants comprising:  
3 a foam core, defining an upper surface, a base and a sidewall;  
4 a waterproof outer coating at least partially covering said foam core;  
5 at least one first cavity in said core, proximal to said base;  
6 at least one second cavity in said upper surface;  
7 a first passageway extending through said foam core communicating between  
8 said first and second cavities;  
9 an external flange proximal to said upper surface;  
10 a peripheral trough between said upper surface and said external flange; and  
11 at least one bore passing through said foam core, providing a communication  
12 between said trough and said first cavity ~~whereby~~ such that the addition of water  
13 to said trough will fill said first cavity at least partially and wet said foam core,  
14 wherein said foam core, said first and second cavities, and said passageway  
15 provide a supply of water and moist air which together facilitate the growth of said  
16 plants.

1 9. (Original) A vessel, as set forth in claim 8, wherein said first cavity has a height  
2 of from about one-quarter to one-half the length of said foam core and a width or  
3 from about one-fourth to about three-quarters the width of said foam core.

1 10. (Original) A vessel, as set forth in claim 8, wherein said first cavity has a height  
2 of from about 4 inches (10 cm) to about 12 inches (30.5 cm) and a width of from  
3 about 4 inches (10 cm) to about 12 inches (30.5 cm).

1 11. (Original) A vessel, as set forth in claim 8, wherein said second cavity is  
2 dimensioned to fit the root ball of a plant transplanted therein.

1 12. (Original) A vessel, as set forth in claim 8, wherein said foam core is selected from  
2 the group consisting of hydrophilic polymer foams.

1 13. (Original) A vessel, as set forth in claim 8, wherein said coating is selected from  
2 the group consisting of epoxies, polyurethanes and phenolic resins.

1 14. (Currently Amended) In combination, a growing plant and a vessel for the  
2 propagation of and aeroponic growing thereof comprising:

3 a foam core, defining an upper surface, a base and a sidewall;

4 a waterproof outer coating at least partially covering said foam core;

5 at least one first cavity in said core, proximal to said base;

6 a first passageway extending through said foam core communicating between  
7 said upper surface and said first cavity;

8 whereby the addition of water to said vessel will fill said first cavity at least  
9 partially and wet said foam core, propagating the growth of said plant, including  
10 the extension of the roots of said plant into said passageway and said first cavity  
11 to a greater extent than their extension into said foam core.

- 1 15. (Original) The combination, as set forth in claim 14, wherein said vessel further  
2 comprises  
3 at least one second cavity in said upper surface;  
4 said first passageway extending through said foam core communicating  
5 between said first and second cavities;  
6 an external flange proximal to said upper surface;  
7 a peripheral trough between said upper surface and said external flange;  
8 at least one bore passing through said foam core, providing a communication  
9 between said trough and said first cavity whereby the addition of water to said  
10 trough will fill said first cavity at least partially and wet said foam core.
- 1 16. (Original) The combination, as set forth in claim 14, wherein said first cavity has  
2 a height of from about one-quarter to one-half the length of said foam core and a  
3 width or from about one-fourth to about three-quarters the width of said foam  
4 core.
- 1 17. (Original) The combination, as set forth in claim 14, wherein said first cavity has  
2 a height of from about 4 inches (10 cm) to about 12 inches (30.5 cm) and a width  
3 of from about 4 inches (10 cm) to about 12 inches (30.5 cm).
- 1 18. (Original) The combination, as set forth in claim 15, wherein said second cavity  
2 is dimensioned to fit the root ball of a plant transplanted therein.
- 1 19. (Original) The combination, as set forth in claim 14, wherein said foam core is  
2 selected from the group consisting of hydrophilic polymer foams.
- 1 20. (Original) The combination, as set forth in claim 14, wherein said coating is  
2 selected from the group consisting of epoxies, polyurethanes and phenolic resins.